

war or the peacekeeping which is not necessarily the cessation of hostilities and may in fact even be an Iraq situation where he plays this like a yo-yo.

My amendment simply provides, if we should not be there and we should not stay there, then we should not fund the money. We then bear part of that responsibility. My amendment provides Members of this House the opportunity to vote in a manner consistent with their consciences and the congressional responsibility to use wisely the constitutional spending power which is the power of the House.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I must say, Mr. Chairman, in the words of Mark Twain, the literary giant from my State of Missouri, "The more you explain it to me, the more I don't understand it." I really have a difficult time in understanding this amendment. For if I read it correctly, it is more restrictive than the language that is already in the bill. On top of that, it prohibits use of any funds, whether they be appropriated as a supplemental appropriation or otherwise from being used in the Republic of Yugoslavia effort. On top of that, it deletes the subsection which invites the President to request additional funds. That was put in by the majority, and I agree with it. The President should come forth and seek supplemental funds for the year 2000.

So this amendment is a very drastic one. If you read it very carefully, it is a short amendment that has very far reaching, difficult results.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) the ranking member for yielding this time to me. I would like to respond to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) very briefly regarding the question he raised about how we are providing for a stable Europe by the actions that have been undertaken.

Last week I traveled with the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) to the Oxford Forum in Belfast, Ireland. While there our interlocutors were parliamentary officials from Germany and from England. We left there and went to London and met with Robin Cook. All along the way, including with the Prime Minister of Ireland, all we heard was praise for the overall aspect of this particular operation and how it has unified the alliance in the new paradigm. I think we really need to examine it from that point of view.

But I do rise in opposition to the amendment from my friend from Indiana. It is unfathomable to me that as a peace agreement has just been signed and we are about to achieve our goals for ending the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo that some Members of this great institution are attempting to

prevent the United States from participating in an international security force. Quite frankly I am not only shocked, I am outraged at the lengths to which critics of our Commander in Chief will go to embarrass him. Rather than at this time celebrate a triumph and applaud our military for having achieved a successful operation, we are about the business of continuing to try to hamper the efforts that are put forward for peace. First these persons tried to prevent the Commander in Chief from stopping genocide in Europe. Now they are trying to stop him from securing peace. This simply cannot happen. I urge the body to please oppose the Souder amendment.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I yield for a question to my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

Mr. HUNTER. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just wanted to say, to get my oar in the water here, that this amendment does do what several people thought the base bill does, that is, this amendment would in my understanding immediately stop all operations in Kosovo. That is, it would paralyze air operations, no moneys of any stripe, whether it is this year or supplemental money or money for next year would be available. That means that everything would stop.

Let me just say from my perspective the same thing that I said several weeks ago on this, that I think that would be a major mistake. This, regardless of how we got here, we are operating this air war, bringing it to a conclusion, and I intend and I think a number of other Members intend on this side to oppose this amendment as much as we respect our friend from Indiana.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS).

(Mr. ANDREWS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding me this time. I rise in opposition to the gentleman from Indiana's amendment. I believe it creates an entirely unworkable situation which could pose grave harm to the men and women in uniform who are serving in the Balkans. In order to understand that, we have to understand what would happen on September 20th if, as I expect, we have several thousand troops in place, conducting peacekeeping activities, and think about the options the President would have to continue that operation. The first option he would have, and I hope that he would do it, would be to come to this body for a supplemental appropriation above and beyond the regular defense appropriations for fiscal year 2000 to pay for the cost of this. And we could make an honest decision as to whether we want to do that and where the money ought to come from. I want to underline what the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and many others have said this afternoon, that that is the right thing, that is what he ought to do. But he may not do it. The President may not do that. And we may not act expeditiously if he does.

About 2 weeks ago, just before the Memorial Day break, we were intending to get to work on this bill, and because of various legitimate political disagreements in this body, we were unable to pass a rule to take up this legislation.

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That could certainly happen again, certainly happen again in the context of a supplemental appropriation.

The second option the President would have under normal circumstances would be to reallocate funding in the fiscal year 2000 bill for this purpose. Now that is what he would do in the absence of a supplemental if this amendment were not the law.

But if this amendment becomes the law, as I understand it, the President cannot do that. It flatly bars any shift of funds, any transfer of accounts for the purpose of supporting the ongoing peacekeeping operation or any other operation which we may need in the Republic of Yugoslavia at that time.

His third option, as I read it, his only option, would be completely unacceptable, and that would be to unilaterally and immediately stop any operations that our military is conducting in the Republic of Yugoslavia. I think that does not make a lot of sense.

For those reasons, I would oppose.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ANDREWS. I yield to the author, the gentleman from Indiana, if he has a question.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Chairman, I wanted to clarify the amendment, if I may. It only affects fiscal year 2000 funding. It has 4 months for us to withdraw. It does not have any immediate impact.

Mr. ANDREWS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, what does the President do on September 28 of 1999 if we have not gotten a supplemental through here, and he wants to leave 7- or 8,000 people there to do their job? How does he pay for it?

I yield back for the answer.

Mr. SOUDER. He would presumably have to overturn this bill.

Mr. ANDREWS. Reclaiming my time, he would have to ignore the will that we enacted here in the bill?

With all due respect, I think that proves my point, that it puts the President in an untenable situation where our failure to act to enact the supplemental, which happens around here a lot, would tie the President's hands and create, I think, an irresponsible situation.

I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. SOUDER. My understanding of the bill, my amendment to the bill,